

May 7, 2023



WELCOME

in the name of the Lord!

As God serves us today in Word and Sacrament, may we rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

1) Please complete either a Guest (blue) or Member (white) card found in the hymnal rack of the pews. You may place this card in the offering plate located in the Narthex.

2) To parents of small children, we love the sound of children in worship. Thank you for bringing your child to worship; they belong here! If your child is actively crying, we have a cry room with service audio near the restrooms.

3) Regarding the Lord's Supper today: If you are not a confirmed member of St. John's congregation or a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, please speak to the pastor before communing. Pastor is readily available in the narthex before worship for this conversation. For those with medical need, the center section of the individual cup trays is filled with cups of grape juice (darker color). For those who have a gluten intolerance, gluten-free wafers are available. Share your need as you come forward to the altar.

4) Children are invited to come forward to the altar while the Lord's Supper is distributed; encourage them to bow their heads and fold their hands. While there, they will receive a Baptismal blessing from the Pastor.

5) We ask that if you have a mobile device, please silence it during the worship service.

6) Our elders and ushers are here to help with any of your worship needs today.

Thanks for worshipping with us!

Sermon Reflections

What problem (sin) did the sermon address?

What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?

What part of the sermon did you find easiest to remember?

Worship Times

- ✠ Saturdays 5:30 p.m. — *Abbreviated service*
- ✠ Sundays 8:00 a.m. — *Communion at the rail*
- ✠ Sundays 10:30 a.m. — *With Praise Band*

Livestreaming of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at stjohnsportage.com/live.

Weekly Events

Sunday (07)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening, Nursery
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Service, Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

Monday (08)

- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Altar Guild, Church CLC

Tuesday (09)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee

Wednesday (10)

- 10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, School Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (11)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:30 a.m. Every One His Witness session 2
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC

Friday (12)

- 12:00 p.m. Church office Closed
- 12:00 p.m. Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Ladies Bible Study, W6808 Elk Rd. Westfield

Sunday (14)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Service, Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

Calendar events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our website, <http://www.stjohnsportage.com/st-johns-calendar>. To schedule your group activity, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

Please Pray

Please notify the church office when one of our church family members is in the hospital, so that a pastoral visit may be made or arranged.

Thanksgiving

(birth, birthdays, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, recovery):

St. John's Confirmands

Other:

Medical:

Jane Kaiser, Kristen Ruchala (sister of Nicole Brockway)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell,

Babette Schumann

Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of Don and Carol Kohrt)

Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)

Mourning:

Family of Donna Leege, Family of Roger Hemler

How Do I Get Someone on the Prayer List?

If you, or someone you know, would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Prayer requests for Thanksgiving, Medical, and Mourning will remain on the list for two weeks. Prayer requests for Long-term Illness/Treatment will remain for one month unless the church office is notified with an update on the individual. Please be sure that you have the permission of the individual before contacting the church office to add them to the public prayer list.

Bring your children to church.

- √ **Even if** you feel they are noisy.
- √ **Even when** they lie on the floor and roll around.
- √ **Even if** their crayons roll 6 pews ahead of you and they decide to crawl under the pews after them.
- √ **Even if** it takes 589 Goldfish crackers and 2 bags of fruit snacks to keep them quiet.
- √ **Even if** you have to walk out and take a breather in the nursery.
- √ **Even if** you have to stand and sway back and forth with your tiny baby in the back of church.
- √ **Even if** your pew suddenly looks like a tornado blew through.
- √ **Even when** they yell out or cry during the sermon.

Jesus loves those children and wants them in church! Church will not always be easy, but He provides you the patience and wisdom to parent in that hour of church.

Let them see you pray. Let them see you sing the hymns and liturgy. Let them see you worship your Savior. If they don't see and learn those things from you, who are they going to learn from?

Congratulations!

Today at 10:30 a.m. our church youth will affirm their Baptism through Confirmation and receive the Holy Sacrament for the first time.

Congratulations!

Vance Beckett
Francesca Daniels
Isabelle Nummerdor
Maya Oganezov
Isaac Opalewski
Alexis Parchem
Brevin Walker
Julia Witkowski

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

-John 15:9-10

Confirmation

Beginning with this year's catechumens, St. John's confirms in 7th grade or later.

Catechism instruction for public school students is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with two years of instruction. It is normally for grades 6 and 7.

Catechism instruction for St. John's School occurs three days a week during the school day for grade 7 students.

Watch the bulletin in August for details about next year's parent/student meeting.

Want to be a part of St. John's Family?



Join St. John's!

We would love to have you here! If you would like to begin the path toward membership and the reception of Holy Communion at St. John's, it begins with worshiping with us regularly. The next step is to visit with Pastor Greg. You may set up a time to meet with him at

<https://calendly.com/pastorhovland/newmember> or contact the church office during regular office hours, and Catharine will assist you in setting up an appointment.

Thank you

Thank you to the PTL and the many parents that made teacher appreciation week special this week. We thank God for your support.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the 8th graders for their class trip.

Thank you to all our chefs and cooks out there who bring food for funerals and other events. We have an amazing congregation and amazing volunteers. If you brought food for a funeral or other event, your dishes are located in the Christian Life Center kitchen.

Save The Date for VBS!

Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to help with VBS! Because of you, VBS IS BACK!

Monday, June 5th - Friday, June 9th
8:30am-11am

Open to ages 4 - going into 4th grade
Registration forms coming soon!

Help our school grow!



Invite a friend to St. John's school. There are a few seats available for next year.

- Ask a friend or family member to check out our website, stjohnsportage.com/school or contact the school, 608-742-9000 opt. 3 to schedule a tour.
- Too expensive? We offer monthly payments and tuition assistance.
- The number one thing setting St. John's Lutheran School apart from all other schools is our Christ-Centered education.

Help us grow the kingdom of God.

Attention Altar Guild

Altar Guild will meet on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. We will be signing up for June through December.

Support our Ministries

BoxTop\$ for Education is a great way to support St. John's School!

All you have to do is download the Box Tops for Education app and scan your receipt. It's that simple!



Support St. John's while you shop!

Shop for gift cards with RaiseRight. You can place your order on Tuesday and pick up on Thursday. Or, stop in the church office and pick up a card from our stock.

Visit: raiserright.com

Click: **Sign Up**

Enrollment Code: Please call the church office, 608-742-9000 for the enrollment code.

Every One His Witness Session 1

**EVERY
ONE
HIS WITNESS**
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

Class will be Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served. This is a one-day class in the Christian Life Center. We must have a minimum of six people to start. So spread the word and bring your family and friends. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Or contact jim@atkinsonrealtor.com or 608-697-7052.

Every One His Witness Session 2

YOU ARE A FIRSTHAND WITNESS OF GOD'S GRACE



**EVERY
ONE
HIS WITNESS**
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

Witnessing Dechurched Adult Children

Do you know any children or adults who were raised in the church but have left the church for whatever reason? Learn how to witness to them. You must have completed Session 1, to take this course. Class starts Thursday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the All Purpose Room. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Or contact jim@atkinsonrealtor.com or 608-697-7052.

Interested in helping your neighbor?

With ongoing worldwide disasters taking place, Orphan Grain Train has a constant need for shipping out hygiene kits.

LWML will be packing kits at our next meeting, Tuesday May 16. Join us, along with St. John's students, in donating items needed for the kits.

- Bath size bars of soap
- Plastic soap dish with closing lid
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Toothbrushes
- Sturdy combs
- Nail clippers
- Small packs of facial tissues

Items must be new with tags and can be placed in the basket located by the entrance to the Christian Life Center.

Get Involved

The new sanctuary projector is fixed!

We still need people willing to assist with the operation of the projector at each of our services.

If you are interested in helping, please email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

Life Thoughts

May 7 – Easter V – The God of the Scriptures displays a decided preference for precisely the kind of lives our world despises. He devotes particular attention to infants and elderly persons (Psalm 146:9), with no thought for who might find them “unwanted” or “burdensome.” He would even have us emulate their dependency upon Him (1 Peter 2:2). And He invites us to know this – and make it known – as real life (John 14:6).

Stewardship Thoughts

1 Peter 2:9 – “**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**” God has called us to be His own. He has chosen us out of love, out of mercy, out of sheer, divine joy. The apostle Peter says that God chose us so that we might share in His glory and “proclaim the excellencies of Him” who has made us His own. And truly, this is our delight! His joy brings joy to our hearts as well.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17

Daily Lectionary

This week’s readings comes from the Daily Lectionary found in the Lutheran Service Book page 299.

Sunday, Lev. 20:1–16, 22–27 & Luke 11:37–54	Tuesday, Lev. 23:1–22 & Luke 12:13–34	Friday, Lev. 26:1–20 & Luke 13:18–35
Monday, Lev. 21:1–24 & Luke 12:1–12	Wednesday, Lev. 23:23–44 & Luke 12:35–53	Saturday, Lev. 26:21–33, 39–44 & Luke 14:1–24
	Thursday, Lev. 24:1–23 & Luke 12:54–13:17	

Weekly Offerings

Last Week’s In-person Attendance: 276

Unified Received: \$10,407.00

Other Contributions: \$1,105.00

TOTAL: \$11,512.00

Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00

YTD Unified Giving: \$550,667.14

YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$583,846.15

Bible Studies

Join us for fellowship and Bible study!

- ✚ **Christian Education Hour meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of The Lifestyles of Reconciliation Series: *Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation*, produced by Ambassadors of Reconciliation
- ✚ **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew and the Synoptic Gospels.
- ✚ **Men’s Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Portage Airport.** We are currently studying the book of Acts.
- ✚ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of the upcoming week’s readings.
- ✚ **Esther Bible Study meets Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the book of Revelation.
- ✚ **Rachel Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently watching and discussing *The Chosen* series.
- ✚ **Thirsty Souls meets Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.**
- ✚ **Friday Ladies Bible Study meets Fridays at 1:00 p.m. at the home of June R., W6808 Elk Rd., Westfield, WI.** We are currently studying Colossians.

Coffee Hour

Adopt a Sunday! It’s a fun and easy way to get to know your church family.

We encourage families and groups to “Adopt a Sunday” by hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Hosting coffee hour involves providing a simple snack, making coffee, and enjoying fellowship time with our church families. Sign up in the Christian Life Center or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

May 07:	Lutherans For Life
May 14:	LWML
May 21:	Health & Wellness
May 28:	Every One His Witness

Contact us: 608-742-9000

Church:
option 4
Office Hours:
M—Th 8:00a–3:30p
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Rev. Greg Hovland,
Senior Pastor
(c) 608-571-3360
ghovland@stjohnsportage.com

Child Development Center:
option 2
Office Hours:
M—F 7:00a–5:00p
cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Debra Drew,
Director
ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

School:
option 3
Office Hours:
M—F 7:30a–3:15p
schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jim Krupski,
Principal
jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com

St. John’s Elder Directory:
Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman
Roger Baerwolf 617-6088
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102
Bill Hageman 279-0272
David Hall 493-2125
Patrick Kirchenwitz 575-3959
Ron Mueller 369-1845
Pete Smith 697-3807
Gene Thompson 697-4786
Mark Witt 697-0224

To schedule your group activity or add a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 option 4 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.